

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A container adapted to receive an inner receptacle, comprising:
2 a base for supporting a lower portion of the inner receptacle, the base
3 including a peripheral frame portion defining at least one relatively large opening
4 therebetween;

5 a first pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the peripheral
6 frame portion; and

7 a second pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the
8 peripheral frame portion and attached to the first pair of opposed walls, wherein the
9 first and second pairs of opposed walls and the base define a compartment area for
10 receiving the inner receptacle therein.

1 2. The container according to claim 1, wherein the peripheral frame
2 portion includes an inwardly extending flange for supporting the lower portion of the
3 inner receptacle.

1 3. The container according to claim 1, further comprising a base
2 member extending across the relatively large opening.

1 4. The container according to claim 3, wherein the base member
2 includes at least one cross-member attached to the peripheral frame portion.

1 5. The container according to claim 3, wherein the base member
2 includes an exterior ring and a lightweight support material affixed thereacross, the
3 exterior ring adapted to be supported by an inwardly extending flange of the
4 peripheral frame portion.

1 6. The container according to claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls include a plurality of relatively large apertures which
3 represent a substantial portion of each of the first and second pairs of opposed walls.

1 7. The container according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first
2 and second pairs of opposed walls includes attachment members for securing the
3 inner receptacle to the opposed walls.

1 8. The container according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the first
2 and second pairs of opposed walls includes an integral handle.

1 9. The container according to claim 1, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes bail arms pivotably attached thereto.

1 10. The container according to claim 1, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls are releasably attached to each other when in an assembled
3 position.

1 11. The container according to claim 10, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls are each pivotably attached to the peripheral frame portion
3 and orientable between the assembled position and a collapsed position.

1 12. The container according to claim 11, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a guide projection and the other includes a
3 guide receiver for aligning the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the
4 assembled position.

1 13. The container according to claim 11, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a latch and the other includes a latch receiver
3 for securing the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the assembled position.

1 14. A container adapted to receive an inner receptacle, comprising:
2 a base including a peripheral frame portion, the peripheral frame
3 portion having at least one cross-member attached thereto;
4 a first pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the peripheral
5 frame portion; and

6 a second pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the
7 peripheral frame portion and attached to the first pair of opposed walls, wherein the
8 first and second pairs of opposed walls and the base define a compartment area for
9 receiving and supporting the inner receptacle therein.

1 15. The container according to claim 14, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls include a plurality of relatively large apertures which
3 represent a substantial portion of each of the first and second pairs of opposed walls.

1 16. The container according to claim 14, wherein at least one of the
2 first and second pairs of opposed walls includes attachment members for securing the
3 inner receptacle to the opposed walls.

1 17. The container according to claim 14, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls are each pivotably attached to the peripheral frame portion
3 and releasably attached to each other, such that the first and second pairs of opposed
4 walls are orientable between the assembled position and a collapsed position.

1 18. A container adapted to receive an inner receptacle, comprising:
2 a base including a peripheral frame portion;
3 a base member adapted to be received on the peripheral frame portion
4 for supporting a lower portion of the inner receptacle, the base member including an
5 exterior ring and a lightweight support material affixed thereacross;
6 a first pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the peripheral
7 frame portion; and
8 a second pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the peripheral frame portion and attached to the first pair of opposed walls, wherein the first and second pairs of opposed walls and the base define a compartment area for receiving the inner receptacle therein.

1 19. The container according to claim 18, wherein the exterior ring
2 is adapted to be supported by an inwardly extending flange of the peripheral frame
3 portion.



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20. The container according to claim 19, wherein the exterior ring
is releasably attached to the peripheral frame portion.

1 22. The container according to claim 18, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls include a plurality of relatively large apertures which
3 represent a substantial portion of each of the first and second pairs of opposed walls.

1 23. The container according to claim 18, wherein at least one of the
2 first and second pairs of opposed walls includes attachment members for securing the
3 inner receptacle within the compartment area.

1 24. The container according to claim 18, wherein the first and second
2 pairs of opposed walls are each pivotably attached to the peripheral frame portion
3 and releasably attached to each other, such that the first and second pairs of opposed
4 walls are orientable between the assembled position and a collapsed position.

1 25. A collapsible container adapted to receive an inner receptacle,
2 comprising:

3 a base for supporting a lower portion of the inner receptacle, the base
4 having a peripheral frame portion defining at least one relatively large opening
5 therebetween;

6 a first pair of opposed walls pivotably attached to the peripheral frame
7 portion and movable between an assembled position and a collapsed position; and

8 a second pair of opposed walls pivotably attached to the peripheral
9 frame portion and movable between an assembled position and a collapsed position,
10 each of the second pair of opposed walls releasably attached to an adjacent one of the
11 first pair of opposed walls in the assembled position, wherein orienting the first and
12 second pairs of opposed walls in the assembled position defines a compartment area
13 for receiving the inner receptacle therein.

1 26. The container according to claim 25, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a guide projection and the other includes a

3 guide receiver for aligning the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the
4 assembled position.

1 27. The container according to claim 25, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a latch and the other includes a latch receiver
3 for securing the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the assembled position.

1 28. The collapsible container according to claim 27, wherein the latch
2 receiver is disposed within a flange depending inwardly from each of the first pair
3 of opposed walls, the latch receiver having a latch aperture and a user actuatable
4 release portion, wherein the latch aperture is sized for slidably receiving the
5 corresponding latch when the container is oriented in the assembled position, such
6 that to release the container from the assembled position, the user actuatable release
7 portion is actuated by a user to release the latch from the latch aperture.

1 29. The collapsible container according to claim 25, wherein the
2 peripheral frame portion includes an inwardly extending flange for supporting the
3 lower portion of the inner receptacle.

1 30. The collapsible container according to claim 25, further
2 comprising a base member extending across the relatively large opening.

1 31. The collapsible container according to claim 30, wherein the base
2 member includes at least one cross-member attached to the peripheral frame portion.

1 32. The collapsible container according to claim 30, wherein the base
2 member includes an exterior ring and a lightweight support material affixed
3 therewacross, the exterior ring adapted to be supported by an inwardly extending
4 flange of the peripheral frame portion.

1 33. The collapsible container according to claim 25, wherein at least
2 one of the first and second pairs of opposed walls includes attachment members for
3 securing the inner receptacle to the opposed walls.

- 1 34. A container assembly, comprising:
2 a base including a peripheral frame portion defining at least one
3 relatively large opening therebetween;
4 a first pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the peripheral
5 frame portion;
6 a second pair of opposed walls extending upwardly from the
7 peripheral frame portion and attached to the first pair of opposed walls, wherein the
8 first and second pairs of opposed walls and the base define a compartment area; and
9 an inner receptacle received within the compartment area, wherein a
10 lower portion of the inner receptacle is supported by the peripheral frame portion.
- 1 35. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the inner
2 receptacle is disposable.
- 1 36. The container assembly of claim 34, wherein the inner receptacle
2 includes a box.
- 1 37. The container assembly of claim 34, wherein the inner receptacle
2 includes a bag.
- 1 38. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the inner
2 receptacle includes a plurality of ventilation apertures.
- 1 39. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the inner
2 receptacle is flexible.
- 1 40. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the
2 peripheral frame portion includes an inwardly extending flange for supporting the
3 lower portion of the inner receptacle.
- 1 41. The container assembly according to claim 34, further comprising
2 a base member extending across the relatively large opening.

1 42. The container assembly according to claim 41, wherein the base
2 member includes at least one cross-member attached to the peripheral frame portion.

1 43. The container assembly according to claim 41, wherein the base
2 member includes an exterior ring and a lightweight support material affixed
3 thereacross, the exterior ring adapted to be supported by an inwardly extending
4 flange of the peripheral frame portion.

1 44. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the first
2 and second pairs of opposed walls include a plurality of relatively large apertures
3 which represent a substantial portion of each of the first and second pairs of opposed
4 walls.

1 45. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein at least
2 one of the first and second pairs of opposed walls includes attachment members for
3 securing the inner receptacle to the opposed walls.

1 46. The container assembly according to claim 45, wherein the
2 attachment members suspend the inner receptacle within the compartment area.

1 47. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein at least
2 one of the first and second pairs of opposed walls includes an integral handle.

1 46. The container assembly according to claim 34, wherein the first
2 and second pairs of opposed walls are each pivotably attached to the peripheral frame
3 portion and releasably attached to each other, such that the first and second pairs of
4 opposed walls are orientable between the assembled position and a collapsed
5 position.

1 47. The container according to claim 34, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a guide projection and the other includes a

3 guide receiver for aligning the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the
4 assembled position.

1 48. The container according to claim 46, wherein one of the first and
2 second pairs of opposed walls includes a latch and the other includes a latch receiver
3 for securing the first and second pairs of opposed walls in the assembled position.